

Criteria for Standard School Type Definitions for the 2006-07 API Reporting Cycle

This document describes how school type (elementary, middle, or high) will be determined for the 2006-07 Academic Performance Index (API) reporting cycle. The 2006-07 API reporting cycle includes the 2006 Base API, which is reported in March 2007, and the 2007 Growth API, which will be reported in August 2007. The information is divided into three sections:

- Background about school type definitions for API
- How school type will be determined for API purposes
- Contact information

Background

Section 52056 (a) of the *Education Code* requires that the API statewide ranking and similar schools ranking shall include three categories: elementary, middle, and high. As a result, school type designations impact the calculations of the Base API decile rankings. However, they do not impact the calculation of a school's API score (for the Base or the Growth) since that is determined according to test and content area weightings rather than school type. API rankings are used in determining API awards, if funding becomes available.

In 2001, specific definitions for school type were developed by the California Department of Education (CDE) according to a school's grade span and, for certain schools, according to the distribution of a school's enrollment. These criteria changed for the 2004-05 API reporting cycle. In January 2005, CDE staff agreed to definitions that are aligned to meet the school type purposes for both the API and the county-district-school (CDS) code, commonly referred to as the "school ownership code." Specific questions about CDS code definitions should be addressed to [cgsadmin@cde.ca.gov](mailto:cdsadmin@cde.ca.gov). The school type criteria defined in this document reflect these new definitions for API purposes for the 2006-07 API reporting cycle.

How School Type Will be Determined

School type of elementary, middle, and high for the API is based on "core" grade spans as shown in Table 1.

Table 1
Core Grade Spans for Determining API School Type
2006-07 API Reporting Cycle

School Type	Core Grade Span
Elementary	K-5*
Middle	7-8
High	9-12

***New beginning with the 2005-06 API reporting cycle:** Grade 6 is left out of the core grade span designations. Because some schools view grade 6 as “elementary” while others view grade 6 as “middle,” the process remains neutral on whether grade 6 is considered one or the other. These core grade spans will be used as the basis for categorizing a school as elementary, middle, or high according to the following steps:

1. Assign School Type Based on Grade Span Served

For schools with a grade span, the API school type is determined according to the specific narrative criteria shown in Table 2. Tables 3 and 4 show the criteria according to each grade span served.

Grade span served is determined according to the lowest and highest grades with enrollment. This information is available in the “List of California Public Schools and Districts,” on the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/si/ds/pubschls.asp>. “Ungraded Elementary” is considered elementary, and “Ungraded Secondary” is considered high for API purposes.

Table 2
Specific Criteria for API School Type Classification

School Type	Definition
Elementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains one or more grades K-4, and no grade higher than 8 and not grade span 4-8 (which is classified as a middle school) OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains one or more grades 5-6 only
Middle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade span 4-8 OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains one or more grades 7-8 and no grade below 5 or above 9 and not grade span 5-9 (which is classified according to enrollment)
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade span 9-9 OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains one or more grades 10-12 and no grade below 7
Determined by Enrollment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains one or more grades K-6 and one or more grades 10-12 OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains one or more grades K-5 and grade 9

Note: A school with grade 6 only (i.e., “6-6”) is considered an elementary school, as shown in Table 3 on the following page. This policy does not change for the 2006-07 API reporting cycle.

Table 3
Elementary and Middle API School Type According to Grade Span Served

API School Type Classification	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Elementary Core grade span of K-6 but up to grade 8 in some cases.	K-K												
	K-1												
	K-2												
	K-3												
	K-4												
	K-5												
	K-6												
	K-7												
	K-8												
	1-1												
	1-2												
	1-3												
	1-4												
	1-5												
	1-6												
	1-7												
	1-8												
	2-2												
	2-3												
	2-4												
	2-5												
	2-6												
	2-7												
	2-8												
	3-3												
	3-4												
	3-5												
	3-6												
	3-7												
	3-8												
	4-4												
	4-5												
	4-6												
	4-7												
	5-5												
	5-6												
	6-6												
Middle Core grade span of 7-8 but down to grade 4 and up to grade 9 in some cases.	4-8												
	5-7												
	5-8												
	6-7												
	6-8												
	6-9												
	7-7												
	7-8												
	7-9												
	8-8												
	8-9												

High API School Type According to Grade Span Served and School Type to be Determined from Enrollment

API School Type Classification	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
High Core grade span of 9-12 but as low as grade 7 in some cases.								7-10					
								7-11					
								7-12					
								8-10					
								8-11					
								8-12					
									9-9				
									9-10				
									9-11				
									9-12				
										10-10			
										10-11			
										10-12			
											11-11		
											11-12		
											12-12		
Determined by Enrollment Grade spans cross all three core grade spans. School type for these schools to be determined based on the largest enrollment in a core grade span.	K-9												
	K-10												
	K-11												
	K-12												
		1-9											
		1-10											
		1-11											
		1-12											
		2-9											
		2-10											
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		5-11											
		5-12											
	6-10												
	6-11												
	6-12												

2. Assign School Type Based on Enrollment

Schools with a grade span served that crosses the three core grade spans (e.g., K-12 or K-10) will be classified based on enrollment. These schools will be assigned school type according to the largest enrollment in a core grade span served. Enrollment in grades K-12 from the most current California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS) data collection will be used. (Enrollment and/or testing counts by grade from the most recent Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program reports may be used if CBEDS information is unavailable.) If the enrollment for two core grade spans served is equal, the school type will be the previous year's API school type. For example, a school with a 4-12 grade span has enrollment of 106 students in the K-5 core grade span served, 192 students in the 7-8 core grade span served, and 52 students in the 9-12 core grade span served. (The enrollment in grade 6 is 30 students but is not used in the calculation because **grade 6 is left out of the core grade span designations. Leaving grade 6 out of the core grade span process is new beginning with the 2005-06 API reporting cycle.**) Since the 7-8 enrollment is the largest of the three core grade spans served, the school would be assigned a "middle" school type.

3. Schools for Which CDE Does Not Yet Know the Grade Span Served, Enrollment, or Testing Data

A slight number of schools, particularly new schools, may not have current grade span served, enrollment, or testing data on file at the CDE. In these cases, school type may be assigned based on the name or characteristics of the school. Absent the pertinent indicators used to determine a school's type, a school type of elementary will be assigned for API purposes.

API Base School Type May Differ for API Growth

New beginning with the 2005-06 API reporting cycle: The school type for the 2006 Base API will be determined from 2005 CBEDS data. However, the school type for the 2007 Growth API will be determined from 2006 CBEDS data in order that the 2007 Growth API school type match the 2007 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) school type. Therefore, the 2006 Base API school type may differ from the 2007 Growth API for some schools.

API School Type Different from Previous Year's API School Type

A small number of schools will be assigned API school types that will be different from the previous API cycle school types. In these cases, school districts are provided a window of time to submit requests to change school type for the API reporting cycle.

Contact Information

Questions about school type should be addressed to:

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